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**ANNUAL NARRATIVE REPORT ON THE JOINT PROGRAMME**

**"ACCELERATE PROGRESS TOWARDS THE ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT OF RURAL WOMEN".**

**REPORTING PERIOD: 1 JANUARY - 31 DECEMBER 2024**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Programme title & Project code |  | Country, Location(s), Priority area(s) / Strategic outcome(s)[[1]](#footnote-2) |
| * Programme Title*: Accelerating progress towards the economic empowerment of rural women*
* MPTF Office Project Reference Number:[[2]](#footnote-3) *00132319*

Une image contenant carte, texte, diagramme, atlas  Description générée automatiquement | *Country: Niger*

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Regions** | **Departments** | **Council areas** |
| Dosso | Boboye | Fabirdji |
| Kankandi |
| Maradi | Gazaoua | Gazaoua |
| Dakoro | Tagriss |

 |
| ***Strategic outcomes*** Securing rural women's livelihoods, rights and resilience to advance sustainable development, Agenda 2030 and the SDGs; Developing production bases for economic sovereignty [[3]](#footnote-4)**Year Target Direct beneficiaries:** 8,500 **Year Target Indirect beneficiaries:** 105,000Total target direct beneficiaries 15,000 (12,000 women, 3,000 men) |
| Participating organisations |  | Implementation partners |
| * Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)
* International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD)
* The United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women)
* United Nations World Food Programme (WFP)
 | **1. Government partners*** Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock
* Ministry of Public Health, Population and Social Affairs
* Ministry of Humanitarian Action and Disaster Management
* Ministry of Crafts and Tourism

**2. NGOs** * CDR, FUSAHA, AEDL, DIKO, ALHERI, PED/W, RECA, FUGPN MOORIBEN, ASADI

**3. Other partners*** Consultants and design office: INTES
 |
| Programme cost (US$) |  | Programme duration  |
| Total budget approved according to project document (in USD): MPTF /JP Contribution[[4]](#footnote-5): * *by Agency (if applicable)*

**FAO:** **IFAD** **UN Women:** WFP: | USD 5,000,000.00 for 5 years USD 354,921.00USD 123,387.00USD 116,444.00USD 170,353.00 |  | Total duration*:*  | 1. *months*
 |
| Agency Contribution*by Agency (if applicable)* |  | Start date[[5]](#footnote-6) *:*  | *25/05/2022* |
| Government Contribution*(if applicable)* |  |  | Initial end date*[[6]](#footnote-7):* | *24/05/2027* |
| Other Contributions (donors)*(if applicable)* |  |  | Expected end date[[7]](#footnote-8)*:*  | *24/05/2027* |
| TOTAL: | **USD 765,105** |  |  |  |
| Mid-term evaluation/review of the programme. |  | Report submitted by  |
| Assessment/Review - if applicable *please attach* Yes No Date: *dd.mm.yyyyy*Mid-term evaluation report *- attach report if completed* Yes No Date: *dd.mm.yyyy* **N/A** | * Name: Boureima YACOUBA
* Title: National Coordinator
* Participating organisation (Lead): FAO
* Email address: Boureima.Yacouba@fao.org
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**ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **AEDL** | Action Educative pour le Développement Local (local NGO) |
| **ASADI**  | Actions pour la Sécurité Alimentaire et le Développement Intégré (local NGO) |
| **AWP** | Annual Work Plan |
| **CEAP** | Agropastoral School |
| **CDR** | Contribution to Rural Development |
| **DC** | Dimitra Clubs |
| **DIKO** | Local NGO |
| **ECOWAS** | Economic Community of West African States  |
| **FAO** | Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations |
| **FFS** | Farmer Field Schools |
| **GRB** | Gender Responsive Budgeting  |
| **IFAD** | International Fund for Agricultural Development  |
| **FUGPN** | Fédération des Unions des Groupements Paysans du Niger  |
|  |  (Federation of Peasant Group Unions)  |
| **IGA** | Income-Generating Activity |
| **INTES** | Innovation and New Technologies for Socio-economic Studies |
| **JIFR** | International Rural Women's Day |
| **KAP** | Knowledge, Attitudes and Practices/ Connaissances, Attitudes, Pratiques |
| **MPTF** | Multi Partner Trust Funds  |
| **MAGEL** | Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock  |
| **MDD-W** | Minimum Dietary Diversity for women  |
| **PED/W**  | Peace and Development /Wedditaare  |
| **PO** | Producers Organisation   |
| **PUNO** | Participating United Nations Organizations  |
| **RECA** | Niger Chambers of Agriculture Network  |
| **RWEE** | Rural Women's Economic Empowerment/ |
| SAFEM | International Crafts Fair for Women in Niger  |
| **SDG** | Sustainable Development Goals |
| **UN WOMEN** | United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women  |
| **VSLA** | Village Savings and Loan Association |
| **WFP** |  World Food Programme  |

# SUMMARY

In 2024, the phase II of the Joint Programme on Accelerating Rural Women's Economic Empowerment in Niger (hereby JP RWEE II), implemented by FAO, IFAD, WFP, UN Women, continued to intervene in the council areas or communes of Fabirdji and Kankandi (Dosso region), and Gazaoua and Tagriss (Maradi region), aiming to contribute to: (i) achieve the overarching goal of securing rural women’s livelihoods, rights and resilience to advance sustainable development, the Agenda 2030 and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and; (ii) implement Niger’s Resilience Programme for Safeguarding the Nation, a strategic vision of the transition authorities, specifically Axis 3: Development of production bases for economic sovereignty and Axis 4: Acceleration of social reforms.

Through a collaborative and dynamic approach, JP RWEE II leverages the expertise and comparative advantages of the four participating UN organisations (PUNOs), implementing partners, and state services to enhance the livelihoods of the supported communities, focusing on the following key components:

* Enhancing agro-pastoral production, by providing support to 2,660 households, including 2,260 households with agricultural kits and 400 households with pastoral kits.
* Enhancing incomes and fostering rural women's entrepreneurship to promote their economic empowerment through income-generating activities (IGAs) and access to micro-credit via village savings and loan associations (VSLAs) activities, which directly benefited 2,671 rural women. In 2024, 80 collective enterprises, involving 400 women, were established.
* Reducing the burden of domestic chores and working hours for rural women by improving access to water and transportation for medical evacuations. As a result, 3,464 women have experienced a reduction in their workload and greater ease in their daily tasks.
* Strengthening the participation of young and adult women in community decision-making, social cohesion, and female leadership at both household and community levels. This was achieved through support for the establishment and functioning of 337 Dimitra Clubs (DC) (255 of which are women-only), benefiting 8,485 people, including 6,019 women.
* Developing capacity across various programme components, resulting in enhanced skills for 4,291 people, including 3,818 women. These improvements span areas such as agriculture, livestock, poultry farming, IGAs and VSLAs, organizational skills, and the sustainable use of shared natural resources, etc.
* Providing technical and financial support for key events, such as the International Rural Women's Day and the International Crafts Fair for Women in Niger. These initiatives helped raise the profile of women in the four communes where JP RWEE II operates and showcase their traditional skills.

The combined effects of these actions have helped reduce women’s household chores and enhance their food and nutritional security. Out of the 53 activities planned for 2024, 32 have been fully completed, 13 activities have been initiated in 2024 and will continue into 2025, while eight (8) activities have not been carried out and will be postponed to 2025.

# Purpose/Object

The Joint Programme on Accelerating Rural Women's Economic Empowerment (JP RWEE II) is a contribution by the United Nations system to the development objectives of the Government of Niger. It is aligned with the strategic orientations of the transitional authorities, particularly Axis 3, “Development of the production bases for economic sovereignty” and Axis 4, “Acceleration of social reforms”. The JP RWEE II aligns with the Economic and Social Development Plan (PDES 2022-2026), specifically with component 5 (Reduction of gender inequalities) under Axis 1, “Human capital development, social inclusion and solidarity” as outlined in its Priority Action Plan (PAP), developed in May 2022. Furthermore, it aligns with outputs 2.2; 2.7; 2.11; 2.13 and 3.1; 3.2; 3.5 of the UN Framework for Cooperation (CCP 2023-2027).

Aligned with these national priorities, JP RWEE II contributes to addressing structural and economic barriers faced by rural women through four mutually reinforcing outcomes. First, it promotes improved food security and nutrition that supports equitable and sustainable food systems. Second, it works to increase income opportunities, ensure decent work, and strengthen the economic autonomy of rural women to build resilient livelihoods. Third, it enhances the voice and leadership of rural women in economic and social decision-making spaces, ensuring their active participation in shaping the policies and initiatives that affect their lives. Lastly, it supports the strengthening of gender-responsive legal frameworks and institutions that create an enabling environment for rural women to secure their rights and economic potential.

Its overall objective is to secure rural women's livelihoods, rights and resilience to advance sustainable development, the Agenda 2030 and the SDGs. Cross-cutting perspectivesare applied across the programme interventions, including:

* Gender transformative approaches to address historically unequal power dynamics between men and women and gender discriminatory social norms.
* A resilience lens to enable rural women and their households to anticipate, adapt, and respond to climate change, hazards and other shocks, while minimizing environmental and COVID-19 impacts.

# Results

1. **Narrative reporting on results:**

This section details the progress made in 2024 against the annual workplan and is based on the annual monitoring survey. It highlights outcome and output level results as per the monitoring and evaluation (M&E) plan and performance results framework. Please refer to section Indicator Based Performance Assessment for details on the figures reported at outcome, output and activity level.

The year 2024 was marked by an effective scale-up of activities contributing to all results. While 21 activities were not fully completed or implemented, 30 activities of the 2024 annual work plan have resulted in major improvements including: (i) an increase of 35,8% of women in the intervention areas who are engaged in agricultural activities; which has led to a 53% increase in agricultural income; (ii) an improvement of 34.6% of women’s access to land and productive resources, opening up interesting prospects for women’s contribution to household food and nutrition security; (iii) an improvement in the level of leadership of women in the intervention areas with, an increase in their active participation in local governance groups from 47.4% in the baseline to 95.7 in 2024; (iv) training/awareness-raising and organised gender forums have made it possible to take gender into account in the budgets and municipal development plan, reduce forced and early marriages and improve the schooling of girls.

**Outcome 1: The food and nutrition security of rural women and their households is improved, contributing to equitable and sustainable food systems** [**2024 target: 8,500 (7,500 women and 1000 men)] [[8]](#footnote-9)**

This outcome seeks to enhance women’s access to productive resources and their food security, which is essential for building resilience and economic empowerment. The goal is to increase agricultural production and productivity to enhance women’s contributions to food security, and to generate marketable surplus.

To improve food and nutrition security in the four (4) communes, 24 activities were planned for 2024. Of these, 14 have been fully implemented, while four (4), initiated in 2024, will continue into 2025. Six (6) were not carried out and were postponed to 2025 due to delays in securing service providers capable of conducting the necessary preliminary studies before implementation. This includes the knowledge, attitudes and practice (KAP) baseline study, which had to be delayed until December 2024, along with the training on the biological control of millet leaf miner.

The 2024 activities implemented under outcome 1 have resulted in reaching 96.2% of planned beneficiaries with access to productive resources (agricultural land and pasture, water, livestock, means of transport, etc.). Several activities of the 2024 annual workplan (AWP)[[9]](#footnote-10) helped to strengthen the capacity of beneficiaries, mostly women, on smart production techniques; this allowed for improvement in yields of the main food crops (millet, groundnut, cowpea and sorghum) produced in the JP RWEE II programme area.

The programme’s approach is to directly support beneficiaries with a comprehensive package of activities, and enable vulnerable households to improve their living conditions. To achieve this, the planned activities focus on achieving the following two outputs:

**Output 1.1: Rural women’s increased access and control of resources, assets and technologies and services essential for climate-smart agricultural production and food and nutrition security**

In rural areas of Niger, women have very limited access to productive natural resources such as farmland or grazing land. In the communes of Fabirdji, Kankandi, Tagriss and Gazaoua, the scarce land accessible to women is either washed out (poor) and not very productive, or degraded and difficult to cultivate. To address this issue and enable women to contribute more significantly to household food security, the four participating UN organizations (PUNOs) are implementing activities a number of activitiesthat contribute to strengthen the food security and resilience of women and their households and make agricultural production more secure and which the programme hopes to retain as a sustainable asset for women.

Under this output, the 2023 established 42 Farmer Field Schools (FFS)[[10]](#footnote-11) continued in 2024, to identify potentialities and constraints in food cultures, experiment solutions to production problems, choose the most promising technical route and select healthy crops that adapt to climatic conditions. These educational FFS, run by local facilitators, under the supervision of local implementing partners, have enabled participants to master environmentally-friendly production techniques, from soil preparation to harvesting and conservation, including sowing techniques, crop maintenance techniques and pest and disease management, through biopesticides.

To build resilience and improve the food security and nutrition of the participating households, the programme enabled 1,000 women, whose diet is essentially based on cereals, to grow vegetables during the last quarter of 2024. Some 80 kg of vegetable seeds (lettuce, cabbage, carrot, tomato), 2,500 kg of cowpeas and 1,000 farming tool kits were provided to these women. This enabled them to cultivate around 50 hectares of vegetables, diversify their diet, improve the nutritional status of women and children under the age of 5, and improve their income from the sale of surplus vegetable produce.[[11]](#footnote-12) Millet and cowpea seeds were also distributed. Worth noting, despite the floods in 2024, millet and cowpea production significantly improved. This is due to the quality of the seeds distributed by the programme, but also to the training sessions that followed in order to help beneficiaries master improved production techniques.

Training and awareness-raising sessions were conducted during the third quarter of 2024, on the legal framework governing land resources and their use in Niger. Given the widespread lack of knowledge about land access mechanisms, the programme trained 60 members (18 women and 42 men) of local land commissions[[12]](#footnote-13), including the members of Dimitra Clubs (DC), on decree 93-15 of 2 March 1993[[13]](#footnote-14), which establishes the guiding principles of the Rural Code in Niger. Participant feedback within their communities has played a key role in promoting this decree and preventing land conflicts by strengthening the negotiation skills of club members, many of whom serve on land commissions. As a result, 356 women heads of household (206 in the Dosso region and 150 in the Maradi region) now have access to land for rainfed crops and 1,000 women have gained access to land for market gardening.

**Key achievements in 2024:**

* 1,000 women gained access to climate-smart agricultural inputs (prior to the intervention, these recipients did not have access to such inputs)
* 2,376 women gained access to time- and labor-saving technologies.

The number of women who had access to climate-resilient technology resources and saved working time was zero at baseline.

**Output 1.2 Enhanced skills and capacity to increase food production, food quality, local food security stocks, reduce food loss and waste and improve household diets**

To address the limited knowledge of selected communities on climate-smart agro-pastoral production practices, as well as on the most nutritious foods, and techniques for harvesting, transporting, storing and preserving agricultural produce, the programme trained 1,260 producers (729 women and 531 men) on improved agricultural production techniques, through the 42 FFS during the reporting period. Additionally, 400 women were trained in goat-rearing techniques and management, while 200 people received training on dry product processing techniques.

The results of the (delayed) KAP baseline study, conducted at the end of 2024, aim to provide guidance for the activities that the programme will implement in 2025 to improve knowledge and promotes good practices, thereby enhancing the nutritional status of pregnant and breastfeeding women and children under five. Furthermore, a social diagnosis was carried out in the 40 intervention villages for the benefit of 500 participants from 220 producer organizations (POs). Depending on the size of the villages and the number of POs per village, there were 8 to 20 participants per village (i.e. 1 to 2 members per PO). The diagnosis led to the identification of the first 12 villages[[14]](#footnote-15) that could each benefit from a storage warehouse for local produce.

Finally, a training session held in the selected programme regions on life skills, women's leadership, sexual and reproductive health and gender-based violence helped strengthen capacities of rural women on these themes. Members from 40 POs and 12 DC (39 women and 13 men) from the selected 40 villages participated. Regarding awareness-raising, each PO member shared/retransmitted the content of the training to at least 10 other members. Additionally, DC’s communal networks led sessions with varying groups of up to 50 participants, reaching approximately 600 beneficiaries (men, women, young people and the elderly) during the community meetings.

**Key Achievements in 2024:**

* 19.3 % increase over the baseline of women adopting diverse and nutritious diets (MDD-W) and an improvement of 10.4% compared to the target expected in 2024.
* 1,260 producers (729 women and 531 men) trained in smart agricultural production techniques.

**Outcome 2: Rural women’s incomes, decent work and economic empowerment are improved, enabling them to secure their livelihoods and build resilience [Target 2024: 8,500 (7,500 women and 1000 men)]**[[15]](#footnote-16)

A total of 20 activities were planned for this outcome, eight (8) of which were fully implemented. Some delays were observed in the implementation of the remaining activities which are due to the slow contracting process with the partners. The activities postponed to 2025 are scheduled for the first quarter and are not expected to have a significant impact on the 2025 programming.

Under this outcome, two studies were conducted in 2024. The first study aimed to identify the agricultural and non-agricultural value chains. The study allowed women participants from the four (4) intervention communes to take part in the diagnosis of promising value chains, and propose strategic directions broken down into activities and identified strategic axes for improving the performance of women entrepreneurs. These include: (i) Capacity building for women entrepreneurs; (ii) Provision of context-appropriate agricultural and zootechnical inputs; (iii) Pest control, animal damage; (iv) and Financial interaction between women’s groups and micro-finance institutions. These were used as guiding principles followed by the PUNOs to implement agro-pastoral and capacity building activities in 2024.

The second study, initially planned in 2023, focused on creating a directory of women entrepreneurs in the four (4) intervention communes. It enabled women participants to take part in the assessment, analyse the entrepreneurial dynamics, and begin identifying women entrepreneurs in each village. This pool of women will form the foundation for the programme to promote entrepreneurship and female leadership.

**Output 2.1: Increased capacity and skills of rural women, reduced workload, and more equitable access to virtual platforms for entrepreneurship, markets and value chains**

Financial education training was provided to 200 members of village savings and loans associations (VSLAs) that were established in 2023. A total of 44 local government agents, all of whom were women, were also trained to support VSLAs in 40 villages where they operate. The training sessions aimed to ensure the effective management and sustainability of VSLAs. The year 2024 was dedicated to building the capacity of the implementing partners and their trainers who supervise VSLAs.

Awareness-raising sessions on market access opportunities, simplified account keeping and a series of training on storage, conservation and processing techniques for dry produce reached around 500 women from all the intervention villages during 2024. As a result of these sessions, the representatives of the POs became aware of the need to secure their production to generate better income and to have easier access to markets and value chains. The themes of processing, product diversification and added value enabled 200 participants from four (4) intervention communes to present their cowpea and millet-based products. They also acquired skills in the essential tools needed to process dry products efficiently and turn them into high-quality finished products, as well as skills in the stages of processing these products using technical sheets to ensure they are value-added.

In 2024, progress was made in building women's capacities and improving their access to entrepreneurship, markets and value chains. Specifically, 848 additional women from POs received training in associative life, which is crucial to the sustainability of their organizations. Furthermoer, awareness-raising sessions were organised for 500 participants from producer unions and groups, focusing on local purchasing opportunities. These sessions, implemented for the first time in the reporting period, facilitated the integration of small-scale farmers into agricultural markets and institutional purchasing networks, including potential links with school canteens supported by other programmes and other local market opportunities. This process played a key role in selecting villages for storage warehouses and exploring public and local market opportunities in the Dosso and Maradi regions.

Progress has also been made in promoting women's involvement in village forest enterprises and assessing local entrepreneurial capacities. In 2024, two (2) sites were developed in Fabirdji and Kankandi (Dosso), covering 0.5 hectares, for 100 women. These sites, equipped with fences, market garden wells and drainage systems, support the cultivation of non-timber forest products and wood-based businesses. This activity is set to continue in 2025 with the creation of storage warehouses and large-scale marketing. During the first half of 2024, two key assessments highlighted the diversity of women's entrepreneurial skills. The first identified 87 businesses with expertise in handicrafts, cosmetics, sewing, animal husbandry, food processing and basketry. The second showed a strong commitment to sheep, goat and poultry farming, with local processing of millet and groundnuts into products such as oil and flour.

In addition, 10 women members of the DC took part in a training course on handling, storage and processing techniques for dry products organised by JP RWEE II. The women then formed groups based on affinity and by agri-food processing product. A total of 101 collective enterprises have been established with the support of the existing DC, with 789 members. The activities are ongoing, and the women feel more autonomous, significantly improving their livelihoods.

**Key achievements in 2024 compared with the annual target:**

* 27% increase in the average farm income of women and 15% increase in farm income for both employed and self-employed.
* 13% increase in the number of rural women who initiated new agribusiness and/or self-employment activities.

**Output 2.2: Capacity, skills and extra time for rural women, for entrepreneurship and access to markets and value chains**

Of the four (4) activities planned under this output, only one (1) activity [[16]](#footnote-17) was completed in December 2024, which relates to the distribution of motorbikes. These distributions were timely as they facilitate the transport of vegetable products, for which harvest is expected between January and February, to markets. The other three (3) activities were carried over and are expected to start during the first quarter of 2025. The main reason for the postponement of these activities is that the implementing partners could not be contracted on time. Some activities, such as supporting the access to social protection systems, social safety nets and non-agricultural income-generating activities through food assistance for work, are seasonal. This had to be postponed to 2025 due to delays in identifying suitable sites for land recovery, as well as to facilitate implementation by partners, through an extension of the resilience zone to the intervention villages.

**Output 2.3: Increased access to financial and business support services, ICT and other products and services tailored to the economic needs of women**

Kits consisting of calculators, telephones and micro-projectors were made available to DC members. Training sessions were organised for 80 women leaders from DC to help them handle these digital tools, which contribute to improving their economic empowerment. The extension of standpipes in the village of Guidan Gazobi in the commune of Gazaoua, directly reaching 4,000 households, or 28,000 beneficiaries[[17]](#footnote-18), including 14,882 women. The project has improved access to water for the local population, reducing the burden and risks of fetching water for women and boosted their source of IGAs by saving time on water search, and they are now engaged in productive activities such as agriculture or small business. Ten (10) cattle carts were also supplied to the four (4) intervention communes to support health evacuations[[18]](#footnote-19) and the marketing of women's products in the surrounding villages. This equipment directly benefited 848 women members of POs and had an indirect impact on 5,936 beneficiaries.

**Key achievements in 2024:**

* 71% of women are using gender-sensitive financial services and products (including savings, credit and insurance); they did not use these services before the project.
* 89% of women in the intervention areas know about and adopted different types of financial services available versus 10% at baseline.

**Outcome 3: Rural women’s voice and agency increased for full and equal participation and leadership in their households, communities, organizations and governance systems resilience [Target 2024: 8,500 (7,500 women and 1000 me**n)] [[19]](#footnote-20)

Out of the seven (7) activities planned, three (3) were fully implemented, while four (4) were postponed to 2025. The delays were mainly due to coordination challenges, including the six-month absence of the national coordinator and changes in focal points for PUNOs. With the Dimitra Clubs (DC) set up with AEDL[[20]](#footnote-21) (implementing partner), women were able to participate actively and positively in community life and to defend their rights, social cohesion, in the operationalization of rural enterprises specialized in processing agricultural products. DC set up in the 40 villages played an interface role between the community and municipal and administrative authorities, which helped to improve local governance improve accountability.

**Output 3.1: Enhanced leadership skills and abilities to participate in local governance and decision-making**

In 2024, the 337 DC, with 8,485 members (including 6,019 women), continued to play a central role in strengthening female leadership and community engagement, serving as a key lever for all the programme's planned activities. With regular close support and guidance on community engagement, these clubs have facilitated significant changes, such as improving local decision-making processes involving women, advocating for gender equality, and promoting community-led development initiatives. For example, as confirmed by community feedback surveys and reports from meetings, female DC’ members now participate alongside men in decision-making on local governance issues – an important shift in a context where women were previously excluded from public meetings, including on local water management. The clubs have played an active role in creating inclusive spaces for dialogue on women’s leadership in the community. Additionally, their involvement is crucial in selecting participants for JP RWEE II training courses and ensuring transparency in the programme's processes. These achievements highlight their growing leadership capacity and increasing influence in fostering equitable and inclusive community governance.

Thanks to the organisational framework established by the Dimitra Club, four (4) community dialogue networks – also serving as consultative mechanisms - have been set up in each of the intervention areas. This mechanism is currently working to challenge outdated social dynamics, address gender inequalities, and dismantle stereotypes and other barriers linked to gender discriminatory social norms. It aims to drive behavioural change at the household, organizational, community, local and even national policy levels.

As part of the efforts to empower women, 1,252 women members of producer organizations (Pos) have received training on key topics such as associative life, good governance, document management, and their roles and responsibilities within their groups. They have also been strengthened economically through income generating activities (IGAs) focused on the production and marketing of local products. Today, these women have begun saving and building up stocks, and the profits they generate allow them to develop additional individual IGAs and meet their family's essential needs (healthcare, children's schooling, clothing, etc.).

In 2024, the programme also enhanced the skills of 101 departmental and communal technical agents, including 16 women, on gender-sensitive planning tools. These professionals, distributed across the four (4) intervention communes, as well as in the departments of Gazaoua, Dakoro and Birni N'Gaouré, now form a pool of qualified personnel to support planning processes in the two regions. This activity was carried out in collaboration with officials from the Ministries of Economy and Finance, Public Health, Population and Social Affairs, and the Ministry of the Interior and Decentralisation. The participation of the representatives of these ministries was essential for the transfer of skills and the sustainability of the results for the beneficiaries.

**Key achievements in 2024:**

* 25% of women occupy positions of responsibility: leadership or management in the group whereas at baseline this rate was only 1.6%, an improvement of 23%.
* 59% of women who participate in decision-making in the household, specifically on the types of crops to be grown on household fields.
* Increase in the number of women leaders in the producers' group from 2% at baseline to 6%, an increase of 4 percentage points over the baseline (equivalent to 480 women).
* 4 DCs communal networks established, with 12 women members out of 20 each, involved in information sharing and dialogue at the communal level.
* 337 DCs (6,019 women, 2,466 men) established to participate in decision-making at the community level to improve livelihoods.

**Output 3.2:Organizational capacities and social capital are strengthened to form, participate in and sustain gender-responsive producer organizations, cooperatives and unions, savings groups and self-help groups.**

In 2024, the capacities of 120 leaders of POs were strengthened through four (4) training sessions on the creation and operation of cooperative structures in accordance with the Organisation for the Harmonisation of Business Law (OHADA) Uniform Act, which governs and regulates the existence of POs in Niger. The leaders then shared their knowledge at the village level with 3,983 people, including 3,488 women.

DCs’ Forums (experience-sharing meetings) were organised in the four (4) intervention communes, bringing together community and religious leaders, and the Dimitra members – both men and women, young and adults. These dialogue spaces highlighted the experiences and practices promoted by the clubs, focusing on transformation and fundamental human rights, particularly women's right to access decision-making bodies, and the economic opportunities provided by the State and/or technical and financial partners. The discussions led to the development of community action plans aimed at promoting social and behaviour changes, with the goal of improving livelihoods and ensuring the application of women's rights within communities. These plans include awareness-raising activities, supported by municipal authorities, community radio stations and, above all, religious leaders.

**Key achievements in 2024:**

* Development of 40 village action plans for social and behaviour changes.

**Outcome 4: Gender-responsive legal frameworks, policies and institutions strengthened to create an enabling environment for rural women to secure their livelihoods, rights and resilience** [**2024 target: 797 (485 women and 312 men)][[21]](#footnote-22)**

Out of the eight (8) planned activities, four (4) were fully implemented, and the remaining four (4) were postponed to 2025. The carried over activities will be fully completed in the first half of 2025. Training workshops on gender-sensitive budgeting and forums on women’s rights reached 300 people (130 women and 170 men) across four (4) municipalities. Additionally, as part of this outcome, several events promoting female leadership and expertise took place at both national and regional levels (Dosso and Maradi).

**Output 4.1: Increased capacity of policy makers and other stakeholders to design, implement and monitor gender-responsive policies, strategies, legal frameworks and budgets**

Two (2) training sessions on the accountability mechanism at community level were held in Dosso for ten (10) members of the DC Networks (6 women and 4 men), two (2) communal supervisors (all men) and the regional coordinator of the implementing partner. These sessions focused on the importance of these networks for the effective functioning of the JP RWEE II accountability mechanism and the management of complaints. Participants were sensitized on the mechanism and the methods communities can use to provide feedback through the toll-free numbers made available to them, in the interest of the success of the JP RWEE II.

**Output 4.2: Increased capacity of rural women and their organisations to participate in and influence relevant policy forums at national, regional and global levels**

JP RWEE II enabled 42 rural women representing economic interest groups and agro-food processing and craft unions from Dosso, Maradi, and three other regions to participate in two major events: the 8th edition of the 100% Made in Niger Trade Fair and the 13th edition of SAFEM 2024. This participation, supported by JP RWEE II, allowed women from Dosso and Maradi to benefit from the expertise and know-how of women from other regions. It also helped showcase their creativity and innovation, resulting in sales revenues totaling 41,950,000 FCFA (USD 67,661). In addition, through interactions with other women exhibitors and exposure to new practices, participants were able to expand their network of public and private partners, securing additional business opportunities estimated at over 10,000,000 FCFA (USD 16,129).[[22]](#footnote-23)

In the Maradi region, women entrepreneurs and economic interest groups specializing in agri-food processing were listed in a national database developed by the Ministry of Crafts and Tourism, in collaboration with JP RWEE II and the Ministry of Humanitarian Action and Disaster Management. This enrolment highlighted their capacities and potential in terms of human resources and the services they can offer. The programme also supported the Directorate General for the Promotion of Women and the Protection of Children of the Ministry of Health in the commemoration of the International Day of Rural Women, held in Niamey on 15 October 2024. The commemoration promoted rural women and highlighted the key role they play in the fight against poverty and hunger in Niger. As part of the celebrations, women from the village of Gorou Kaina Golley were provided with kitchen kits and multifunctional platforms to reduce their domestic workload.

**Describe implementation delays, challenges, lessons learned and good practices**:

**Implementation delays and challenges**

The project faced several challenges in 2024. The deteriorating security situation in Kankandi and Fabirdji, hampered project activities and access to these intervention communes. In addition, gaps in leadership, particularly with the departure of the JP RWEE II national coordinator and the post remaining vacant until the end of September 2024, resulted in a decrease in agency responsiveness and motivation.

These difficulties were compounded by delays resulting from a chain reaction of interconnected situations. For example, the postponement of the KAP study on nutrition delayed the start of the nutrition training. Similarly, delays in the supply of multifunctional platforms and improved stoves had an impact on the scheduling of the corresponding training sessions. Difficulties in identifying appropriate service providers, particularly for the training on biological control of the millet leafminer, also contributed to delays in certain activities. In addition, the transition to a new working platform from the PUNOs added a further level of complexity to the process of sourcing and identifying service providers.

Some works, such as the construction of the shops, were significantly delayed due to various internal and external factors, such as partner's lack of proactivity in pre-financing the construction work. The internal factors include delays in disbursing funds to the partner and, subsequently, a willingness to restructure and redirect construction activities to carry them out to the highest standards. To mitigate future delays and taking into account the lessons learned from the process, a timetable for the implementation of activities has been drawn up, and meetings have been scheduled to ensure greater collaboration and synergy between the players involved in the construction of the shops.

The effects of climate change and the difficulty of accessing certain areas have also hindereded the implementation of programme activities in 2024. Flooding, bush fires and the lack of accessible roads have affected livestock[[23]](#footnote-24) and agricultural production, partly compromising the sustainability of activities. At the same time, flooding caused the collapse of 135 houses in the communes of Gazaoua and Tagriss, leading to the evacuation of one of the targeted villages in the commune of Tagriss.

Additionally, the programme faced challenges in 2024 due to epizootics and crop diseases. In the Dosso region, an outbreak of small ruminant plague affected livestock distributed across 10 villages of the commune of Fabirdji, resulting in the loss of livestock. Finally, given the security issues, access to the Dosso region is conditional on the presence of an armed escort paid for by the program, which was not provided for in the budget.

**Lessons learned**

The support of small kits provided by the programme to 400 very poor households in the four (4) intervention communes initially yielded mixed results. Some of those households, especially in the Dosso region, had to sell a portion of the animals received to support themselves while keeping some of the rest. But the subsequent measures, including the distribution of 80 kg of livestock and the distribution of poultry kits, helped to relieve households and partially solved the problem. In the future, for similar activities, the program will focus more on experience and capacity criteria[[24]](#footnote-25) rather than vulnerability criteria.

During the implementation of activities related to irrigated crops (gardening), the program realized that the strategy of distributing input kits directly to individual households without ensuring that these households have access to water has contributed to extend working time for women. This was especially true in two municipalities in the Maradi region where the water tables are deep and where even water for human consumption is a problem in most villages. Indeed, in these villages, the women who benefit from gardening activities spend a lot of time to manually draw water from wells and transport it to their huts to water crops. In response to this situation, the program has decided to review the approach and develop community sites on which all necessary infrastructure will be built to enable women to have a simpler irrigation system, less tiring and water saving.

According to the village chiefs of Tagriss, the involvement of Dimitra Club in targeting has improved the selection process and reduced the many problems and complaints that go with it. With this successful experience, the program decided to make Dimitra Club its gateway and systematically involve their members in all activities.

**Good practices**

Experience has underlined the importance of proactive management. The regular engagement of the technical committee and the proactive measures taken were essential in addressing delays and maintaining the momentum of the project. Flexibility and adaptability in project planning proved crucial, particularly in dealing with external disruptions and internal transitions. Despite the challenges faced, the technical committee showed resilience, remained proactive and maintained its commitment by organising monthly coordination meetings to address these issues and continue to foster collaboration amongst the different stakeholders, and, alongside the joint supervision missions organised every quarter, extended technical meetings with all the stakeholders, in particular representatives of the supervisory ministry (MAGEL[[25]](#footnote-26)), the departmental directorates for the promotion of women and the protection of children, the implementing NGOs and the partners of the PUNOs. This ongoing commitment has been essential to the effective management of the project. Meanwhile, JPRWEE has continued to make steady progress in the other intervention areas not affected by delays, demonstrating its ability to adapt and move forward despite constraints.

Key successes in 2024 include the creation of local businesses and the capacity of women to contribute to household finances while planning for future growth, for example by obtaining land to grow millet. This is illustrated by the inspiring story of Dimitra Club member Zeynabou Souley. Her experience highlights the importance of practical training, organizational capacity at the community level, and harnessing local resources to promote sustainable development and food self-sufficiency. Zeynabou and her peers in the village of Guilguijé applied the skills acquired during training provided by the Programme in Gazaoua to establish ten businesses producing Toukoudi, a traditional dried millet paste. Their initial business, funded through collective savings and contributions, generated smal profit of 4,000 CFA francs (around US$6.50) in a fortnight. This success has motivated them to continue their efforts, showcasing the transformative potential of empowerment and entrepreneurship.

*"Emboldened by our success, we realised that we could get by on our own efforts. At present, we contribute to our respective household expenses and much more besides. We're also planning to build up a stock of our raw materials to avoid shortages".*

*Our dream would be to have access to land to produce our raw material, millet, in abundance. Today, we have added cowpea couscous to our menu. We make both products and it's going well".*

**Qualitative assessment**

The qualitative assessments for the year 2024 were conducted in February 2024 during the annual measurement period for the program indicators.

The first qualitative survey was carried out in order to understand the changes observed in the quantitative data. The data were collected by DEEP SEARCH, the service provider in charge of conducting the annual measurement of program indicators. The second qualitative data collection was carried out by the program team and government technical services represented by the regional focal points, with local authorities, customary authorities and leaders. These targets, according to their areas of interest, took part in the gender budgeting training and communal forums organized by JP RWEE II.

According to the beneficiaries who took part in the group interviews, training in gender-sensitive budgeting has enabled the issue of gender to be taken into account in the drafting of CDPs as well as in commune budget planning. Previously, very little attention was paid to these aspects when drawing up communal development plans.

As for the communal forums, they have made it possible to discuss and highlight the importance of taking women's needs and rights into account in the villages where we work. According to the respondents, the effects of these awareness-raising campaigns can be seen from the very first weeks. Women are now consulted in household decision-making. Better still, they receive their share of inheritance, including land, in the same way as men. These forums have also helped to raise awareness and bring about positive changes for women and girls. In all the communes, respondents highlighted the reduction in early and forced marriages, improved schooling for girls, and the establishment of dialogue within couples, which village chiefs and religious leaders believe has helped reduce divorce rates.

**ii) Performance assessment based on indicators :**

The table below shows the changes (increase and decrease) in interventions in relation to the baseline and in relation to overall program indicators at outcome and output level, in line with the country's approved Results and Performance Framework (RPF). Baseline figures are representative of the country's target population (total) and therefore appear in % in line with JPRWEE monitoring and evaluation guidelines. Annual targets also appear in % (in most cases and in line with the indicator's requirement to calculate changes over time) and are established by the country team during the annual planning exercise, while final targets are established and validated internally just after the baseline has been finalized. The final objectives are also mentioned in this table to help understand the progress made towards the expected final change.

Achievements are marked as follows: **NA**, **NOT ACHIEVED, PARTIALLY ACHIEVED, ACHIEVED.**

NA: when the indicator is “optional” according to the country's PRF and the country has not chosen to report on it in the program cycle.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Baselines and Targets for 2024** | **Achieved Indicator Targets** | **Reasons for Variance with Planned Target (if any)** | **Source of Verification** |
| **OUTCOME 1: Improved food security and nutrition for rural women and their households that contribute to equitable and sustainable food systems**  |
| **1.1: Percentage increase in production/productivity of nutritious crops by rural women (% change in production volume, kg/ha), disaggregated by food crop** |
| **Baseline:**  M*illet: 76 Kg/ha* *Cowpea: 89 Kg/ha* *Sorghum: 63 Kg/ha (20%)**Okra: 32 Kg/ha (28%)****Planned target:*** *Milet: 84 Kg (11%)**Cowpea: 109 Kg/ha (23%)**Sorghum: 75 Kg/ha**Okra: 41 Kg/ha****Endline Target****Millet: 100 kg/ha (32%)**Sorghum: 100 kg/ha (60%)**Okra: 60 kg/ha (85%)**Cowpea: 150 kg/ha (69%)* | Millet: 85 Kg/ha (101%)Cowpea: 117 Kg/ha (108%)Sorghum: 113 Kg/ha (151%)Okra :46 Kg/ha (114%) | **ACHIEVED** | * Individual Interview with Rural Women (Smallholder Agriculture Market Support (SAMS module)
 |
| **1.2 Increase in the proportion of rural women who reach minimum dietary diversity (MDD-W) (% increase from baseline)**  |
| ***Baseline****: 21% (2 520 women)****Planned Target:*** *30%****Endline Target:*** *50%* | 40%  | **ACHIEVED**  | * Individual Interview with Rural Women (Minimum Dietary Diversity for Women Module)
 |
| **1.3 Decrease in the proportion of households spending 65% or more of their monthly budget on food (Household Food Expenditure Share)**  |
| **Baseline:** 66.9% (10 035)**Planned Target:** NA**Endline Target :** 45% |  NA | This indicator is reported at baseline, mid-course and endline only. | * Household Food Expenditure Share
 |
| **1.4 Optional: Decrease in rate of rural women farmers’ post-harvest losses over time (disaggregated by crops)**   |
| ***Baseline:*** *NA****Planned Target:****NA****Endline:*** *NA* | NA | The country team has not adopted this indicator. | * Individual Interview with Rural Women (Smallholder Agriculture Market Support (SAMS module)
 |
| **Output 1.1 Rural women have increased access to and control over resources, assets and services critical for their food and nutrition security** |
| **Indicator: 1.1.1 Increase in the proportion of rural women with access to productive resources as measured by the relevant WEAI (% increase over baseline)** |
| **Baseline**: 71,25 % (8550)**Planned Target:** 79%**Endline Target :**95% | 97% | **ACHIEVED**  | * Module Pro-WEAI - MODULE g3a: access to productive capital
 |
| **Indicator 1.1.2 Increase in the number of rural women with access to climate-smart inputs, assets and natural resources for agricultural production such as high-quality drought resistant seeds, tools and machinery, water and irrigation, land, greenhouses/ polytunnels (% increase over baseline)** |
| **Baseline:** 57,8% ( 6 936)**Planned Target:** 63,58% (10%) women**Endline Target:** 25% | 89,9 % | **ACHIEVED** | * Individual interview with rural women (Pro-WEAI (control over productive resources module)
* Quarterly report
 |
|  **Indicator 1.1.3 Increase in the number of rural women adopting improved value -chain specific, climate-smart and indigenous agricultural production techniques (% increase over baseline)** |
| **Baseline: 0****Planned Target:** (10%) 1 200 women**Endline Target:** 20% | 1356 | **ACHIEVED**  | * Individual interview with rural women (Pro-WEAI (control over productive resources module)
* Quarterly report
 |
| **1.1.4 Increase in the number of rural women with access to time- and labour-saving technologies (% increase on baseline)** |
| **Baseline: NA****Planned Target:NA****Endline Target: NA** | NACountry team do not abopt this indicatorIndividual Interview with Rural Women (Smallholder Agriculture Market Support (SAMS module) * Quarterly report
 |
| **Output 1.2: Rural women have enhanced skills and capacities to increase nutritious food production, food quality and local food security reserves; reduce food losses and waste; and improve household diets** |
| **1.2.1 Increase in the number of rural women and men with improved skills and capacity for nutrition, health and food safety (% increase over baseline)** |
| **Baseline:**  0**Planned Target:** 1650 women and girls (22%) and 110 men (household) **Endline Target:**  33,33% women girls and men and boys 33,33% | 0%  | **NOT ACHIEVED****Reason for Variance**: Interventions under this modality has been delayed and prevented to cover all targeted beneficiaries planned.  | * Individual interview with rural women (outcome monitoring)
* Quarterly report from implementing partners.
 |
| **1.2.2: Increase in the number of rural women accessing extension services, including weather information (% increase over baseline)** |
| **Baseline:** 0**Planned Target**: 12,5% (1500)**Endline Target :** 3000 (3000/12000= 25%) | 1,356 (9.04%) | **PARTIALLY ACHIEVED:** **Reason for Variance**: Trainings and capacity building under this intervention do not specifically focus on weather information. | * Individual interview with rural women (SAMS Module)
 |
| **1.2.3: Increase in the number of rural women utilizing improved and value-chain specific post-harvest handling and storage practices (% increase over baseline)** |
| **Baseline :** 0**Planned Target:** 200 group members members (20 productive Groups)**Endline Target :** 600 memebers (40 productive groups) |  0% | **NOT ACHIEVED****Reason for Variance**: Training on storage and the construction of warehouses has been delayed and moved to 2025. | * Individual interview with rural women (SAMS Module)
 |
| **Outcome 2: Rural women’s income, decent work and economic autonomy increased to secure their livelihoods and build resilience** |
| **Outcome 2.1: Percentage increase in rural women’s average annual farm incomes** |
| **Baseline:** 85,830 FCFA (144 USD)**Planned Target:** 15% **Endline Target :** 50% | **20%**(157,289 FCFA - USD 262)  | **ACHIEVED**   | * Individual Interview (Business module) with women’s and FGD with women’s groups
 |
| **Outcome 2.2: Percentage increase in rural women’s average annual off-farm incomes (including from micro-enterprises and wage employment promoted by the project), disaggregated by employment type** |
| **Baseline:** Employed**:** 90,717 FCFA (151 USD)Self Employed: 80,222 FCFA (134 USD)**Planned Target: 27 %** (both employed and self employed)**Endline Target:** 80% | **25%** 116,175 FCFA/year 193 USD)  | **ACHIEVED** | * Individual Interview (Business module)with women’s and FGD with women’s groups
 |
| **Outcome 2.3 : Increase in the proportion of rural women with control over the use of their income and expenditures as measured by the relevant WEAI** |
| **Baseline:** Women single HH : 70,89% ( 8 507)Women double HH : 58,6% ( 703 200)**Planned Target:** NA**Endline Target :** Women single HH : 90%Women double HH : 70% |  NA | NA: Measured every 4 years |  WEAI module (G3) Annual monitoring |
| **Outcome 2.4 Household redistribution in the average number of daily hours spent on unpaid care and domestic work, by sex and age (adapted from SDG 5.4.1) as measured by the relevant WEAI** |
| **Baseline:** women Daily hours : 5.85 h for( 36 - 65 age) and FHH: 3.8 h Men Daily Hours: 1.53 h **Planned Target:** NA**Endline Target** : women: Daily hours : 4 h for( 36 - 65 age) and FHH: 3.8 h menDaily Hours: 1.53 h |  NA | NA : Indicator not among those to be measured each year |  WEAI module (G4) |
| **Output 2.1: Rural women have enhanced capacities, skills and time for entrepreneurship and access to markets and value chains** |
| **Indicator 2.1.1: Increase in the number of rural women with improved financial literacy and/or entrepreneurship skills (% of increase over baseline)**  |
| **Baseline:** 600**Planned Target:** 6 000 women (50%)**Endline Target :** 12 000 women (100%) | 5,400 (45%) | **PARTIALLY ACHIEVED** **Reason for Variance:** Financial literacy training resulting from the installation of the multifunctional platforms has not yet begun. The platforms will not be installed until 2025.  | * Individual interviews with the women beneficiaries
* Quarterly report

  |
| **Indicator 2.1.2: Increase in the number of rural women who initiate new agribusiness and/or self-employment activities, disaggregated by sector (% increase over baseline)** |
| **Baseline:** 0 **Planned Target:** 500 **Endline Target:** 1000 Women (1000/12000) = 8,3% | 80% (400) | **PARTIALLY ACHIEVED**  R**eason for Variance:** The gap is due to the non-implementation of certain activities that create self-employment. | -Employment and Business Survey (Individual Interview)-Quarterly report  |
| **Indicator 2.1.3: Increase in the number of rural women with improved physical access to markets, processing and/or storage facilities (% increase over baseline)** |
| **Baseline:** 85,2% ( 10 0224)**Planned Target:** 87%**Endline Target:** 364 women and 77 men in vulnerable situations | 85,5%  | **PARTIALLY ACHIEVED** **Reason for Variance:** This could be explained by the fact that the harvest storage business has not yet started up. | WEAI MODULE (MOBLITY) |
| **2.1.4 Optional: Increase in the number of rural women-owned micro-enterprises or producer organizations engaged in formal partnership, agreements and/or contracts with public and private entities (% increase over baseline), by sector**   |
| **Baseline:** 0**Planned Target:** 50**Endline Target** : 100 | 0 | **NOT ACHIEVED****Reason for variance**: micro-businesses have been set up, the owner trained. They started making profits. However, they have not yet signed any formal contracts with customers. | Employment and business survey (one-to-one interview) |
| **2.1.5 Optional: Increase in value (USD) of sales by rural women-owned micro-enterprises or producer organizations .**  |
| **Baseline:** 0**Planned Target:** 0**Endline Target** NA | NA |  | Business module  |
| **Output 2.2: Rural women have increased access to decent work, including off-farm work and social protection** |
| **2.2.1: Increase in the number of rural women who enter employment in the formal labour market (% increase over baseline)** |
| **Baseline:** 456 women**Planned Target:** 10% **Endline Target :** 30% | 0 | **NOT ACHIEVED****Reason for Variance:** Interventions to foster the formalizations of groups have not reached the momentum to produce a substantive change against this indicator. | Employment and business survey (one-to-one interview) |
| **2**.**2.2 Increase in number of rural women covered by social protection systems (% change over baseline)** |
|  **Baseline:** 0**Planned Target:** 660**Endline Target :** 1 100 | 0% | **NOT ACHIEVED****Reason for Variance**: Interventions to foster safety nets for the targeted groups have not reached the momentum to produce a substantive change against this indicator. | Individual interview with rural women |
| **2.2.3 Optional: Increase in number of government entities and/or companies that develop and/or implement gender-responsive procurement and employment policies** |
| ***Baseline:*** *0****Planned Target:*** *40****Endline Target :*** *100* | 0 | **NOT ACHIEVED (- 40 )****Reason for Variance:** Training courses have been conducted only recently, which has not yet enabled us to record the number of entities that have registered gender-sensitive market procurement strategies. | FGD with women’s groups |
| **Output 2.3: Rural women have increased access to gender-responsive financial and business development services; ICTs and other products and services** |
| 2.3.1 Increase in the number of rural women using gender-responsive financial services and products (including savings, credit, and insurance), disaggregated by type and total amount (USD) (% change over baseline) |
|  **Baseline:** 675**Planned Target:** 30%**Endline Target : 80%**  | 71 % (8496 women) | **ACHIEVED** | * Outcome survey (pro-WEAI Access and decisions on financial services individual interview with rural women)
* FGD with women’s group
 |
| **2.3.2 Increase in the number of rural women who access and use new business knowledge, products, services and technologies for improved market access (% change over baseline)** |
| ***Baseline:*** *0****Planned Target:*** *1000 (8% of women targeted)****Endline Target:*** *2 000* | 400 (3%) | **NOT ACHIEVED****Reason for Variance:** Apart from rural women's collective enterprises, other employment-generating activities have yet to get off the ground due to the delay since the start of implementation of activities | * Individual interview with rural women
 |
| **Outcome 3: Rural women’s voice and agency increased for full and equal participation and leadership in their households, communities, organizations and governance systems** |
| **Outcome 3.1 Increase in the proportion of rural women with decision-making power over production and productive assets as measured by the WEAI (‘Instrumental Agency’ in Pro-WEAI)** |
| **Baseline:** Women single HH: 79,27% (9 513)Women double HH: 66,88% (8 026)**Planned Target:** NA**Endline Target:** Women single: 85%Women double HH: 70% |  NA | NA: Measured every 4 years |  WEAi module |
| **Output: 3.2 Increase in the proportion of rural women with empowerment in the leadership domain as measured by the WEAI (‘Collective Agency’ in Pro-WEAI)** |
| **Baseline:** Women single HH: 8,54% (1 025)Women double HH: 11,29% (1 355)**Planned Target:** NA**Endline Target:** Women single HH: 85,0%Women double HH: 55,0% % |  NA | NA: Measured every 4 years |  WEAI module |
| **Output 3.3: Increase in proportion of women in elected local governance structures** |
| **Baseline:** 20.13% for two-parent women and (2 416) 12.66% for two-parent women (1 520)Single-parent**Planned Target:** NA**Endline Target:**50% for two-parent women and 30% for two-parent women |  NA | NA: Measured every 4 years |  Pro-WEAI module |
| **3.4 Increase in the proportion of participating women who are empowered or whose achievements are at least as high as men in their households according to the WEAI Gender Parity Index**  |
| **Baseline:** 418**Planned Target:** NA**Endline Target: 20%** | NA | NA. This indicator is measured every 4-5 years. | Gender Parity Index (pro-WEAI) |
| **Output 3.1: Rural women have increased skills and capacity to participate in local governance and decision-making structures** |
| **Indicator 3.1.1 Increase in the proportion of women members in community decision-making structures, including producer organizations, cooperatives, unions and local food security reserves** |
| **Baseline:** Women together; 18.62 % (2 335)**Planned Target:** Women together; 37.24 % (4 469)**Endline Target:**Women together: 37.24 Women with two parents: 40.26Single-parent women: 25.32% | 68,9% (Membership of at least one group) | **ACHIEVED**  | Pro-WEAI G5 |
| **Indicator 3.1.2 Increase in the proportion of women leaders in community decision-making bodies, producer organizations, cooperatives, unions and local food security reserves** |
| **Baseline:** Agricultural groups: 2.57 % (309)Water users: 1.42% (171)Local governance structures: 2.71 % (326)Microfinance groups: 1.6% (192)Self-help groups: 2.61% (313)Business groups: 1.33 % (160)**Planned Target:**Agricultural groups: 31.14 %Water users: 0.75%Local governance structures: 3.34Microfinance groups: 4.4Self-help groups: 3.22%Business groups: 1.5 %**Endline Target:**Women leaders in agricultural groups: 51.14 %Women leaders as water users: 2.84%Women leaders in local governance structures: 4.34%Women leaders in microfinance groups: 6.4%Women leaders in self-help groups: 5.22%Women leaders in business groups: 2.66 % | Groups of agricultural: 26.6%Water management group: 11.3%Local governance group: 12%Microfinance group: 58.1% Self-help groups: 42.8% Business association group: 31.1%  | **PARTIALLY ACHIEVED** Groups of agricultural**:** -4.54Water management group: +10.55%Local governance group: +8.66% Microfinance group: +53.7%Self-help groups: + 53.7%Business association group: +29.6% | Pro-WEAI G5 |
| **Output 3.2: Organizational capacities and social capital strengthened to form, participate in and sustain gender-responsive producer organizations, cooperatives and unions, savings groups and self-help groups** |
| **3.2.1 Increase in the number of informal rural women’s groups which become formally registered producer organizations, cooperatives and unions** |
| **Baseline:** 19 agricultural groups registered; 3 for water user groups; 5 for local governance structure; 4 for microfinance groups; 15 for self-help groups; 2 for business groups**Annual target: 0% increase****Endline Target:** 100 agricultural groups registered; 0 for water user groups; 0 for local governance structure; 50 for microfinance groups; 0 for self-help groups; 20 for business groups |  0% | **NOT ACHIEVED****Reason for variance** Activities were not planned under this output for this year. Activities are planned in the 2025 Annual Workplan. |  WEAI module (G5 membership aand participation) |
| **3.2.2 Increase in the number of producer organizations, cooperatives and unions that adopt a gender policy/ strategy/ training/ women’s quota for their board** |
| **Baseline:** 0**Planned Target:** **0****Endline Target:** 90 producer organizations, cooperatives and unions that adopt a gender policy/ strategy/ training/ women’s quota for their board |  0% | **NOT ACHIEVED****Reason for variance** Activities were not planned under this output for this year. Activities are planned in the 2025 Annual Workplan. |  FGD with Groups |
| **Outcome 4: Gender-responsive legal frameworks, policies and institutions strengthened to create an enabling environment for rural women to secure their livelihoods, rights and resilience** |
| **Outcome: 4.1 Number and type of revised or adopted national or regional legal frameworks, policies, or strategies that promote, enforce and monitor gender equality in agriculture, national food security and nutrition, social protection, emergency preparedness, and economic and labour systems (% change from baseline) (adapted from SDG 5.1.1)** |
| **Baseline** 1 National strategy for women's empowerment**Planned Target:** 0**Endline Target:** 1 National strategy for women's autonomy (revision for popularization) |  **0%** | **NOT ACHIEVED****Reason for variance** : Activities were not planned for this output for this year. Activities are planned in the 2025 Annual Workplan. | * Unwomen and FAO reports
* KII with policy makers
 |
| **Outcome: 4.2 Increase in the number of programme countries with systems to track and make public allocations for gender equality and women’s empowerment in the agricultural sector (adapted from SDG 5.c.1) (% change from baseline)** |
| **Baseline:** NA**Planned Target:** 0**Endline Target:** NA |  NA |  NA | * KII with policy makers
 |
| **Output 4.1: Capacities of policymakers and other relevant stakeholders enhanced to design, implement and track gender-responsive policies, strategies, legal frameworks and budgets**  |
| **4.1.1 Increase in the number of national women’s machineries and policymakers with capacities to advocate for gender-responsive policies and budgets**  |
| **Baseline: 0****Planned Target: 4****Endline Target: 5** | 0 | **NOT ACHIVED** **Reason for variance**: The performance of this inidcator depended on the request of the ministry in charge of gender issues. | * Ad hoc individual question
* KII with policy makers
 |
| **Output 4.1.2: Increase in the number of rural women engaged in local and national-level government meetings on policy formulation, budget allocation and monitoring for gender commitments** |
| **Baseline: 0****Planned Target:** 2 400 women**Endline Target**: 6 0000 women  | 0% | **NOT ACHIEVED** **Reason for variance**: Policy-forming bodies are being restructured by the new authorities and have not yet begun to function. Activities that can inform these indicators will be effective in 2025. | * WEAI G5 (local governance)
* KII with policy makers
 |
| **4.1.3 Optional: Increase in the number of stakeholders with increased capacities in the collection, analysis, use and reporting on gender statistics including sex disaggregated data on agriculture and economic opportunities for rural women**  |
| ***Baseline: 0******Planned Target:*** *NA****Endline Target:*** *NA* | NA | NADue to the coup d’état and the takeover of the military, changes in decision makers within the government has become very challenging for the programme. Dialogue has recently restarted and activities under this intervention planned for 2025. | * Key Informant Interview with policy makers
 |
| **Output 4.2: Capacity of rural women and their organizations increased to engage in and influence relevant policy forums at national and regional levels**  |
| **4.2.1 Increase in the number of rural women who demonstrate increased awareness and understanding of legal rights and relevant policy mechanisms**  |
| ***Baseline****:340****Planned Target****: 20% (2 400)****Endline Target****: 8 400* | 869 (8%) | **PARTIALLY ACHIEVED** | * Ad hoc individual question
* KII with policy makers and community leaders.
 |
| **4.2.2 Increase in the proportion of women's groups linked to advocacy networks and alliances, by network focus (e.g., gender, climate action, etc.)**  |
| **Baseline:** 0**Planned Target:** 30% (3 600)**Endline Target:** 70% (8 400) | 0% | **NOT ACHIEVED****Reason For Variance**:Interventions under this output have been delayed to the political situation and are planned to be resumed in 2025. | * Ad hoc individual question
* KII with policy makers and community leaders.
 |

**iii) A specific story (optional)**

**The determination of the members of a women's company in Madobi**

"My name is Hadiza Aminou. I live in Madobi, in the rural commune of Gazaoua. I'm 30 years old, married, and a mother of eight children, five of whom are girls. Three of my children are in school, including two girls. I'd like to talk to you about our collective rural enterprise. When we first came together, we never imagined the journey we were about to embark on. Our first attempt driven by the idea of producing *béroua* (cowpea-based couscous)—ended in failure.at entrepreneurship, galvanised by the idea of undertaking the first activity processing béroua or cowpea-based couscous, ended in a setback. We simply couldn’t get the couscous to form properly, which means we had no product to sell. After this bitter setback, we gathered as a Dimitra Club to decide whether to abandon or continue the business. Wisdom prevailed, and we chose to press on. For this new beginning, the women entrepreneurs of Madobi came together once again -- this time with the five women who had been trained by the programme in " *Techniques for handling, storing and processing dry products*". We were also assisted by potential literacy trainers, who used the training guide they had received. Determined to succeed, we followed the recipe step by step, applying everything we had learned. To our surprise and delight, when we turned over the couscous, we saw that it had taken on the perfect cooking color. At that moment, our joy was immense, and our motivation soared. That was the beginning of our first business successful business transaction, our first access to the market, our first customers, and our first profit. *Our business was reborn. But it wasn’t easy! Sisters, above all, never give up. Success undoubtedly lies at the end of effort. Believe me*!".

[[1]](https://euc-word-edit.officeapps.live.com/we/wordeditorframe.aspx?ui=en-US&rs=en-US&wopisrc=https%3A%2F%2Fwfp.sharepoint.com%2Fsites%2FJPRWEE%2F_vti_bin%2Fwopi.ashx%2Ffiles%2F2ca45bcaae17423f97847cad0c3c078f&wdlor=cAFC0C42F-2699-4476-953C-5C59E558836A&wdpid=4be7ae7&wdenableroaming=1&mscc=1&hid=05108EA1-A03C-0000-531B-FBAD4E37A4AC.0&uih=sharepointcom&wdlcid=en-US&jsapi=1&jsapiver=v2&corrid=e5968303-bd5a-1067-5340-e3bb6b712228&usid=e5968303-bd5a-1067-5340-e3bb6b712228&newsession=1&sftc=1&uihit=docaspx&muv=1&cac=1&sams=1&mtf=1&sfp=1&sdp=1&hch=1&hwfh=1&dchat=1&sc=%7B%22pmo%22%3A%22https%3A%2F%2Fwfp.sharepoint.com%22%2C%22pmshare%22%3Atrue%7D&ctp=LeastProtected&rct=Normal&wdorigin=Outlook-Body&wdhostclicktime=1742931723428&csc=1&instantedit=1&wopicomplete=1&wdredirectionreason=Unified_SingleFlush#_ftnref1) *Beroua is an expression in the Haouassa and Zarma national languages meaning couscous made from cowpea. It is a protein-rich food.*

**III. Other assessments (if applicable)**

1. **Initial KAP Nutrition**: As part of the implementation of the nutrition component of the JP RWEE II programme, an initial KAP survey was conducted in November 2024 in the communes where the Programme operates to assess beneficiaries’ knowledge, attitudes and practices regarding nutrition. This baseline assessment serves as a basis for designing concrete actions to improve nutrition within the programme. The survey was conducted in the programme's four intervention communes in Niger, with a sample that reflects the overall target population’s gender distribution - approximately 75% women. In terms of household responsibilities, depending on the commune, 25 to 38% of the surveyed members were heads of household. To accurately assess the impact of interventions, data collection conditions must remain strictly consistent between the initial study (T) and the final study (T+), considering factors such as population, sampling, environment, risk factors, health indicators, etc.

An evaluation of the value chains --both agricultural and non-agricultural-- that have been developed to identify promising sectors for women in the programme area.

1. Strategic Results, as formulated in the Strategic UN Planning Framework (e.g. UNDAF) or project document [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
2. The MPTF Office Project Reference Number is the same number as the one on the Notification message. It is also referred to as "Project ID" on the project's factsheet page the [MPTF Office GATEWAY](http://mdtf.undp.org) [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
3. Axis 3 of the Strategic vision for Niger: [Axes - Pour le Niger](https://pourleniger.com/axes/) [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
4. The MPTF or JP Contribution, refers to the amount transferred to the Participating UN Organizations, which is available on the [MPTF Office GATEWAY](http://mdtf.undp.org) [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
5. The start date is the date of the first transfer of the funds from the MPTF Office as Administrative Agent. Transfer date is available on the [MPTF Office GATEWAY](http://mdtf.undp.org/) [↑](#footnote-ref-6)
6. As per approval of the original project document by the relevant decision-making body/Steering Committee. [↑](#footnote-ref-7)
7. If there has been an extension, then the revised, approved end date should be reflected here. If there has been no extension approved, then the current end date is the same as the original end date. The end date is the same as the operational closure date which is when all activities for which a Participating Organization is responsible under an approved MPTF / JP have been completed. As per the MOU, agencies are to notify the MPTF Office when a programme completes its operational activities. [↑](#footnote-ref-8)
8. This is the total target beneficiaries planned across the outcome without overlap. The same target receive interventons along the different outputs within the outcome. [↑](#footnote-ref-9)
9. Activities 1.1.14, 1.1.15, 1.1.16 [↑](#footnote-ref-10)
10. Some 32 FFS for rainfed crops and 10 for market garden crops were established in the two prorgamme regions. [↑](#footnote-ref-11)
11. Harvesting and possible sales are scheduled for 2025, even though operations started in 2024. [↑](#footnote-ref-12)
12. The land commissions are official structures for rural land management set up by the "Rural Code" body in Niger, with a statutory and regulatory framework that ensures in principle the membership of 18 percent of women members. They play a key role in addressing one of the key barriers to women’s economic empowerment, access to land [↑](#footnote-ref-13)
13. Order establishing the legal framework for agroforestry activities in the field of land use planning while ensuring the safety of rural farmers including women in the use of productive natural resources [↑](#footnote-ref-14)
14. These villages are Kankandi, Sosso Bangou, Débé Débé Zarma (commune of Kankandi), Torombi Dioffo, Irah /Irah Fandôga, Fabidji Djerma /Haoussa (commune of Fabidji) in the Dosso region; Adagoye, Aikawa, Guidan, Gazobi (commune of Gazaoua), Tagriss, Soly, Garin Mahaman (commune of Tagriss) in the Maradi region. [↑](#footnote-ref-15)
15. This is the total target beneficiaries planned across the outcome without overlap. The same target receive interventons along the dirrefrent output within the Outcome level. Also these are the same individuals who received benefits under outcome 1. [↑](#footnote-ref-16)
16. AWP 2024 - Activity 2.2.2: Four motorbike with trailers are distributed of which 1 per commune (Kankandi, Fabidji, Gazaoua and Tagriss) [↑](#footnote-ref-17)
17. The 28,000 beneficiaries represent members of the 4,000 beneficiary households, with an average household size in the Maradi region estimated at 7. [↑](#footnote-ref-18)
18. It should be noted that in the absence of an ambulance, medical evacuations were carried out either on a donkey or on foot with the risk of worsening the disease due to exhaustion. With these donations made through the project, patients from remote villages are evacuated to health centers via these charrettes on which patients are transported lying down, reducing travel time and risk of worsening the disease. [↑](#footnote-ref-19)
19. This is the total target beneficiaries planned across the outcome without overlap. The same target receive interventons along the different output within the outcome level. Also these are the same individuals who received benefits under outcome 1 and 2. [↑](#footnote-ref-20)
20. Educative Action for Local Development (local NGO) [↑](#footnote-ref-21)
21. This is the total target beneficiaries planned across the outcome without overla within the outcome level. The same target receive interventons along the dirrefrent output within the Outcome level. Also only some of these beneficiriea also received interventions under outcome 1,2,3. The rest are policymakers and community leaders or group leaders targeted for this outcome specifically. [↑](#footnote-ref-22)
22. 1USD = 620 FCFA [↑](#footnote-ref-23)
23. In the livestock sector, goats were lost, during transport and due to the heavy rains recorded between August and September 2024 in the villages of Gazaoua and Tagris (Maradi region). [↑](#footnote-ref-24)
24. Preferred beneficiaries will be those most likely to produce an impact and guarantee the sustainability of the program's actions, rather than the most vulnerable. [↑](#footnote-ref-25)
25. Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock [↑](#footnote-ref-26)